June 8th 1908

visit to Vienna. Mihaly Tichotai to dah. Viennese I found quite delightful... The owner of the pictures I was to examine met me. He was an ex-Captain of Cavalry - fortunately Italy Italian so that we managed to converse quite freely. He insisted rather to my dismay on being present when I examined the pictures but I was quite convinced that he was not with any idea of unpleasantness, for he was a really nice & gentlemanly fellow The pictures had belonged to his family & Mihaly had been valued at a huge figure by an Italian called Molmenti who had pronounced one to be a fine Van Dyke. I had to tell him that they had hardly any value at all that the V. was nothing of the kind the so-called Raphael a Raffaello Botticelli. He was intensely convinced that I was right & not at all disturbed in mind. When complimented him on his philosophy he said that he did not need any because he had always thought the pictures a very poor lot but that his whole family & their ancestors had so long maintained the opposite that he thought he might as well try to sell them but that I had said what he expected. What convinced him of my omniscience was my judgment of a certain

June 8th 1908

[illegible] composition called Paolo Veronese. I looked at it — and that it was probably by a very clever Venetian artist of the early 16th Century called de Fabris who imitated the older men cleverly. He started with surprise & said that de Frabris had been an intimate friend of the family & had no doubt Eugen from this. It was of course a piece of luck that I had hit it off so exactly but it impressed him deeply. He is quite sure so that I worked my judgment — & have been otherwise but he really won my heart by the perfect simplicity & candour of all his Venetian reckoning with me. I paid him a very good dinner & we parted Gallant friends.

Mar 2nd 06. New York.

I sat next Mark Twain the other night at dinner & found him a really fine generous & liberal minded gentleman, altogether one of the fine men — & he has the courage to speak out for what is humane & humane. I sometimes wonder whether this doesn't spring back to sheer barbarism. But the contrasts are amazing for I meet pretty often men of the finest culture & the frankest

of persons ~~culture~~ pretension ... The
trouble is that no one really knows
anything or has any true standard. They are as
credulous as they are suspicious ~ are
wanting in any intellectual talent so that
perhaps ~ passing emotions drift them
anywhither. I . . .

Gift L. Woolf 10/22/63

VW Notes Extracts from
Roger Fry for biography

TRAN

Feb 14
1910

The blow I expected has fallen. Morgan
could not forgive me for trying to get
that picture for the Museum
& Choate has proved a broken reed.
... No use to make any fuss about it.
I could get no satisfaction from these
people but they have behaved nicely..
I am standing for the Slade at Oxford.
... What fools I must hope for some
poor or critical on the daily or
weekly press or else I must for the
present be busy & lecturing on my own account.

Feb 9
1910.

Holmes has resigned the Slade .... Cook,
L & to help. (can't say)
Just an hour & constantly & getting the
Port.